(b) The offtake of wheat against PDS allocation has been 85% and above from April, 94 to May, 97 and therefore, it cannot be termed as "Erratic".

(c) to (e) yes, Sir. The Government of Assam has demanded, increase of monthly wheat quota to 45,000 MT against the monthly wheat quota of 20,380 MT fixed from June, 97 under T.P.D.S. which has been revised to 20,300 MT from July, 97 as per bifurcation of wheat and rice quota as requested by the State Government. No further Streamlining of monthly wheat quota is under consideration.

(f) to (j) Information is being collected from FCI and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cinchona Plantation

935. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cinchona plantation in West Bengal is incurring heavy losses;

(b) if so, the amount of such losses annually and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures the Government contemplated to evolve to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Naxalism in Bihar

936. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naxalism in Palamau, Chatra and Hazaribagh districts of Bihar has alarmingly increased;

(b) if so, the number of people in the said districts killed during the last three years in the Naxalite activities;

(c) whether any proposal for checking Naxalism has been received from the State Government by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken by the Government for checking Naxalism in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) As per available reports, the violent activities of naxalites in Palamau and Chatra districts have shown a declining trend during the current year as compared to previous year. The trend of their violent activities in Hazaribagh has remained at the same level, as compared to previous year.

(b) As per information available, the number of persons killed during 1995-96 and 1997 (upto 30th June, 1997) in these three districts was 213.

(c) and (d) Under the non-plan scheme for modernisation of State Police forces, an amount of Rs. 333.12 lakhs was released during 1996-97 to the Government of Bihar for purchase of various items under the scheme. This amount includes a special financial assistance of Rs. 100 lakhs. During the current financial year 1997-98, against the annual allocation of Rs. 233.12 lakhs to the Government of Bihar under the scheme, the first instalment of Rs. 116.56 lakhs has already been released.

(e) At the Central level, action is taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-naxalite operations of different States and to improve flow of information useful for control of naxalite activities among the States. Further, help is being provided to the State Governments in terms of financial assistance for modernisation of police, supply of improved weapons, deployment of para-military forces etc. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the ongoing allocations for modernisation of police and supply of weapons.

[English]

Unauthorised Research Organisation

937. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about an unauthorised research organisation namely "Hill Conservation Society" running by some foreigners at "Nelliampathy Hills Westernghat" at Palghat District in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.